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Elizabeth Barker.

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ELIZABETH BARKER.

MAY 1, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MATSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 977.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 977) granting a pension to Elizabeth Barker, having examined the same, find a bill passed the Senate granting claimant a pension, concur in the Senate report and recommend the passage of the bill.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 977) granting a pension to Elizabeth Barker, have examined the same, and report that it appears from the records in this case that Elizabeth Barker, now aged ninety-three years, is the widow of Henry Barker, who was a private in Capt. Paul French's company, Fifth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and served with that company during an invasion of Indians in the months of May and June, 1812, and that the soldier, Henry Barker, died near Jasper, Ind., August 22, 1846, and that his widow did not again marry.

It is shown that British emissaries were at this date, as they had been for a considerable period, engaged in attempts to incite the Indians against the settlers on the frontier; and that the services of Capt. Paul French's command were rendered in connection with a series of events which immediately preceded the war of 1812.

A declaration for pension filed October 25, 1878; claim rejected April 28, 1879, on ground that the services were rendered prior to the war of 1812. The official records show that Henry Barker actually served as a private in Capt. Paul French's company, Indiana Volunteers, from May 11, 1812, to June 10, 1812, and that the company was "ordered into the service of the United States by Lieut. Col. Joseph Padon on an invasion of the Indians."

It appears that the State of Indiana was much disturbed during this period by Indian incursions and depredations, and that the British incited them to these acts and were the cause of the trouble which Capt. Paul French's company was called upon to quell. It is believed that the spirit of the law and the intent of the law-makers was to recognize just such services as were then rendered by Henry Barker; and, taking into consideration all the circumstances, the committee believe it to be their duty to report in favor of this bill and recommend its passage.